

Claims 22 to 33 correspond to claims 1 to 12 as filed.

Claims 34 and 35 correspond to claims 18 and 19 as filed, in which the word "hydrate" has been introduced so as to specify that the dextrose in powder form of claims 34 and 35 is a dextrose hydrate in powder form. Claim 34 is further made dependent on claim 22. Support for this amendment is to be found in the whole application and in particular on page 7, lines 4 to 9.

In fact, a clerical error led to the omission of the word hydrate in claims 18 and 19 at the time of the filing. This clerical error is evident since the whole of the instant application is concerned with "dextrose hydrate".

Claims 36 and 42 which correspond to claims 20 and 21, directed to use claims, are redrafted as product claims.

Groups I and III

In view of the above recited amendment, it is respectfully submitted that Group I and Group III concern the same subject matter and are now part of the same group of invention. In fact, the claims of Group III, i.e. claims 34 and 35 are now dependent on claim 22 which belongs to Group I.

Thus, a search of the prior art on the subject matter of claim 22 will also cover the subject matter of claims 34 and 35. No supplementary search will hence be necessary.

As a consequence, in view of the amendment performed, it is respectfully submitted that election between inventions of Groups I or III is no longer necessary.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Use claims

In view of the above recited amendment above, there are no longer use claims. Claim 36 is a product claim which is part of the invention as claimed in claim 22. It is respectfully submitted that a search for prior art on the subject matter of claim 22 will also reveal prior art for the subject matter of claim 36 since a search of dextrose hydrate products will also cover compositions containing dextrose hydrate. As a consequence, no supplementary search is to be performed for the examination of claim 36.

It is hence respectfully submitted that no election/restriction requirement is necessary between the product claims subject of claims 22 to 36.

Process claims

Claims 37 to 42 concern process claims for the manufacture of the product of claim 22.

The requirement for restriction is respectfully traversed.

While the claimed product might be made by a process different from that claimed, the claimed process is particularly suited for the manufacture of the claimed product. More important, if Applicants elect the product for a complete search the Examiner will necessarily have to search the process as well for it is intimately related to the dextrose hydrate composition in powder form claimed so much so that the most relevant prior art might be the process that produces the composition.

Lastly, Applicant reminds the Examiner of the published PTO guidelines on the treatment of product and process claims (BNA's PCT Vol. 51, page 626), where in a requirement for

restriction an applicant elects the product claims which are subsequently allowed, the non elected process claims will be rejoined and allowed.

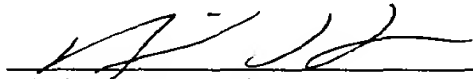
To complete the response, Applicants elect invention of claims 22 to 36 which are related to the same product and form one single group, namely group I, in view of the above recited amendments.

For the foregoing reasons, withdrawal of the restriction requirement is respectfully requested.

Favorable consideration and prompt allowance of these claims are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
LABERGERIE et al.

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Date


Richard L. Fix
Reg. No. 28,297

HENDERSON & STURM LLP
206 Sixth Avenue, Suite 1213
Des Moines, Iowa 50309-4076

Telephone: (515) 288-9589
Telefax: (515) 288-4860